



Redeemer Lutheran Church

Crossroads

January 2024

Redeemer 'Facelift' Begins in January

In the near future, Redeemer is sgoing to present a new "face" to our community that will be both informative and beautiful and welcoming. Take a look at what will be happening soon!

New Sign to Be Installed

Redeemer's new electronic sign is scheduled to be installed early in January. First, our current sign will be demolished to make way for the new sign which will be placed a few feet closer to the center of our street-front. Then, the new sign will be erected. The whole process should take approximately 4 days. Then the staff will be trained on how to create and post messages about our ministries and invitations to the community on the sign. The updated sign will not only provide us flexibility in the messages we communicate, but also point to how we are moving into the future.



Special appreciation goes to Preston Smith who has been changing the message on our sign every week for at least 5 years. Now he can retire the broomstick he has been using to hold up the cover while he changes the sign. ☺

Landscape Beautification Project

The last update for our landscaping facing St. Andrews Road was completed by Jesse Richards as part of meeting the requirements to be an Eagle Scout. After so many years, now is the time for an update. Jean Cook and Jane Long have spent time this fall exploring plants that will look good, be easy to maintain, and that should thrive in locations across the front of our church. In December, the Council approved the plan they presented. The time to plant is now so that when spring comes, the new plants are in place and ready to grow.



Council invites your support of this project as well. If you'd like to contribute toward paying for this update to our landscaping, mark your gifts to the Landscape Beautification Project.

Inside-

New Council Officers	3
Thursday Bible Study	4
Christmas Thank You	4
Help! Load a Truck	6
Book Study Resumes	7
Council Report	8
RELU Youth	9



Goodbye.

At this time of year, that's the perfect thing to say. Goodbye to you all. Goodbye to this new year we have entered. Goodbye, goodbye.

I know, I know. As we begin this new year together, you might think it is time to say hello to each other and to this time stretching out before us. But I think we need to say goodbye.

You see—and this will probably come as no surprise to most of you — I enjoy words. And so it was that Christmas a year ago, my son Michael gave me a book with the imposing and intriguing title of *The Curious Compendium of Wonderful Words: A Miscellany of Obscure Terms, Bizarre Phrases, and Surprising Etymologies*. Well, that was right up my alley. Even better, it was full of short articles that I could read when I had the chance, and so for most of last year, I have gently waded through this book, sticking my toe in the waters of this curious phrase or that obscure meaning. It was wonderful.

As I got near the end of the book, I came to the page that offered *A Brief History of the Word Goodbye*. Here is what it said:

When you tell someone "Goodnight," you're basically saying "I hope you have a good night" or something to that effect. The same goes for most other [greeting](#) and parting expressions that begin

with *good*: *Good day, good morning, good evening, good afternoon*, etc. Following that trend, it seems like *goodbye* must be short for "I hope you have a good bye" and *bye* must be some obsolete term for a certain time of day.

But neither of those assumptions is true. In fact, *bye* started out as an abbreviation — and *good* wasn't originally *good* at all.



As far back as the 14th century, English speakers were saying "God be with you" when they parted ways. It took a little while for them to land on a suitable shortening of the phrase, but they got there by the mid-16th century. In 1575, per the [Oxford English Dictionary](#), *godbwye* appeared in print for the first time, in a letter from English scholar Gabriel Harvey.

"And then to requite your gallonde of godbwyes, I regive you a pottle of howedyes," he [wrote](#). In today's English, Harvey's poetic sentiment loosely translates to this one: "And then to reciprocate your gallon of goodbyes, I give you back a half-gallon of howdies." ([Howdy](#), by the way, has its roots in *how do you do?*)

But the evolution of *God be with you* to *godbwye* and then to *goodbye* wasn't linear—people seemingly spelled the expression however they wanted to. Examples include *God be wy you, God buoye, good bwi't'ye, good b' w' y*, and so on. [Shakespeare](#) alone wrote it at least three different ways in three different plays.

As for how *God* became *good*, it's generally [believed](#) that people were influenced by all those other *good* phrases: *Good day* and *goodnight* had already been around since the 13th century. While *God be with you* remains a relatively common utterance in religious circles, *goodbye*—which started cropping up in the early 1700s—eventually supplanted it as a secular farewell. In other languages' versions of *goodbye*, however, the religious connection is still crystal-clear. Both the French *adieu* and the Spanish *adios* literally translate to "to God."

And so, that's why as we begin a new year together, I say to you, "Goodbye." God be with you. God be with you in all that you undertake this year. God be with you to guide you in your choices. God be with you to watch over and care for you. God be with you together as we worship and serve, receive and live love, share and care for one another.

Welcome to 2024. Goodbye.





January Birthdays

Saylor Russell	1/1
Veronica Imel	1/3
Eli Huffman Jr.	1/4
Margaret Larson	1/4
Gavin Small	1/5
Luc Vander Voort	1/5
Tia Vander Voort	1/5
Barbara Parker	1/8
Paul Addy	1/10
Mary Lou Campbell	1/10
Elizabeth McKeown	1/10
Harrison Schultz	1/10
Holly May	1/11
Lewis Austin	1/12



Deborah Turner	1/12
Rachel Epting	1/13
Todd Knight	1/14
Kennedy Libet	1/15
Amy Gfell	1/16
Savannah Martin	1/17
William Beasley Jr.	1/18
Brian Crooks	1/19

David Abel	1/20
Marie Baughman	1/20
Dorothy Harbaugh	1/20
Bob Brunson	1/21
Carolyn Splittgerber	1/21
Emily Anderson	1/23
Barrett Burgess	1/23
Kai Jorgensen	1/23
Betty Olsen	1/24
McKenzie Dowd	1/25
Lauren Willingham	1/26
Deliliah Beasley	1/27
Judy Stuck	1/27
Sharon Vander Voorst	12/28

Council Elects New Officers

In December, the Council elected new officers for 2024. President will be Bill Newmyer, Vice-President will be Diane Hunt, and the secretary will be Donna Nunamaker. Todd Anderson continues as our treasurer. Thank you to these leaders who will serve our congregation.

Christmas Outreach Thank You for Your Support

Thank you, Redeemer Family, for the generous support you show our community. Through the Giving Tree, Holiday Meal Boxes, Blessing Box, Coat Drive, along with so many other opportunities, you continue to spread your blessings among others. It is a joy to do ministry alongside so many who look to serve and share with others.



In Appreciation

Each month the Church Council recognizes and thanks those among us who have offered themselves to the work of the church in special ways. This month the council appreciated:

All our musicians who led and helped beautify our worship over the Advent and Christmas season,

All those who decorated our sanctuary for Christmas and added to our celebration of Christ's birth,

Those who have finished their faithful service to our congregation as they complete their terms on Church Council: Julie Crooks, Carroll Lorick, and Steve Summer,

And to Bill Newmyer, Steve Summer, Kai Jorgensen, and Todd Anderson who were Council officers in 2023.



Thursday Bible Study Resumes January 4

Pastor Gary's Thursday Bible Study resumes on January 4 with a study of Romans. Come join us for this hour-long study each week on Thursdays at 10:00am and then repeated at 7:00pm. You can attend in person or online at <https://relu.link/ThursdayBibleStudy>.



The Apostle Paul wrote letters to churches he had founded, giving guidance on the Christian faith to the believers he had left there. However, Paul had never visited Rome, so in his letter to the Roman Christians, Paul spelled out the fundamentals of the Christian faith. Come join us as we explore the good news of Jesus as taught by St. Paul.

2024 Flower Chart Posted



The Flower Chart for 2024 is posted on the bulletin board near the small kitchen. Please sign up to beautify our worship in our sanctuary.

Our flowers are on a subscription service from our florist, and cost \$65 per week. After worship, you are invited to take the flowers home with you to enjoy. Flowers left until Monday are taken to our homebound and hospitalized members.

Christmas Thank You

Redeemer Family,
I am so grateful to be a part of such a loving, caring, and generous congregation. Thank you for the Christmas gifts and the multitude of blessings during this year. Thank you for loving me and my family so well.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Amanda

Thank you all so much for your generous Christmas gift. Both Janet and I are overwhelmed by your generosity. As much as we are grateful for this wonderful gift, we are even more grateful for the friendship and fellowship we enjoy as part of this wonderful community. It is a joy and a treasure to be a part of the Redeemer family. We look forward to a great year and all the good things to come. Thank you all again!

Jim Boatwright



Dear Redeemer Family,
Thank you so much for the wonderful gift. It's been a year of "opportunities", but each of your prayers and thoughts have been so appreciated! I love you all.
Betty

Thank you for your generosity at this Blessed time of year and for coming in and introducing yourselves to me. I am looking forward to meeting many more of you.

May you and your families have a wonderful and Merry Christmas.
Yvonne

Thank you for all the love and support you have given to us in this past year. You have celebrated with us the birth and baptisms of two grandchildren, and comforted and cared for us through the loss of Nan's father and her stroke. You are and have shown the best of what it means to be the family of God. Thank you for the Christmas gift you have shared with us, but even more, thank you for your support and love. May God be with you as you live out God with us.

Pastor Gary and Nan



“But I’m an integral part of my Handbell Choir!” cried the character in Randall Cook’s delightful musical, “Ding, Dong Merrily on High”.

The character in question is a native South Carolinian who has just been offered a plum job from a prominent Manhattan power-couple. Of course, they wanted her ‘immediately’ — (don’t they always?). And, in this case, “immediately” meant the day before Christmas Eve, which meant the character would miss her church’s Christmas Eve Service.

She clearly understood that as a member of the Handbell Choir she was indispensable—integral.

Oh, and just so you know—the playwright is our own Randall Cook. The play was performed at the Greenville Peace Center. It was thoroughly delightful! When I heard that line, well, honestly, I guffawed. Of course, I did! I felt Randall wrote that line just for me. That’s my story and I’m stickin’ with it!

During intermission Randall confided, “I knew you were in the audience when I heard you laughing from the other side of the theatre.”

Such is my laugh.

But, I digress. Integral part. Hmmm.

By the time you’re reading this, Christmas Eve has happened, the presents all opened, the turkey (or ham, or roast beef, or Christmas tofu) has been eaten and the leftovers languishing forlornly in the back of the refrigerator.

Family has, for better or worse, come and gone, discussions of when to take down the decorations are raging, not to mention the theologically-laden issue of the removal of the Christmas Tree—before January 6? Is that heresy? Will the needles survive that long? And as surely as the sunrise that certain bleakness that seems to follow the festivities has begun to settle on us like the dense fog of an early South Carolina winter.

But as I write this, we are weeks away from Christmas Eve. Spirits are high, excitement is building, and anticipation, palpable

Typically, I write a big thank you article about all those who had that “integral” part in our Christmas Eve Service.

And, truly, I am very grateful to a host of “integral parts”.

Our brass musicians—the incomparable Mark Rapp, trumpet; the equally incomparable Jason Roddey, saxophone, Bailey Walker, our multi-talented bass scholar on trumpet; new-comer, and delightfully diverse John Overcash, trombone. Our dynamo accompanist, Lois McLeod.

Our talented handbell choir;

And, of course, our talented and faithful Adult Choir.





Imposition of Water Offered on Baptism of Our Lord Sunday

“Remember: You are a child of God and have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.” With those words, we will receive the imposition of water on Baptism of Our Lord Sunday, January 7.

On this Sunday, as we remember Jesus’ baptism, we will also remember our own in this way. Just like ashes are imposed on Ash Wednesday to remind us of our mortality and our sinfulness, here, water will be imposed in the same way and in the same place (on our foreheads) to remind us that in our baptisms God has claimed us as his forever. We are his saved people, washed clean of our sin and made new in his love. God watches over us in that love and care always.



“In our church, we baptize only once,” Pastor Gary said, “but we are encouraged to remember our baptism daily. This is one way to remember.”

Join us for this special worship service as we remember who God has made us.

Please Come Help Load Donations for Williamsburg County January 12



We are well overdue to send a truck of donations to Williamsburg County. Our room of boxes and bags is full and the outside storage unit is full of furniture, mattresses, and appliances. We’ve even got some refrigerators and washer/dryer sets stored in the Fellowship Hall.

More donations are on the way, so we need to make room and get these items to folks who need them.

We will be loading a truck for Williamsburg County on Friday, January 12. We will start about 4:00pm, but come when you can. Come make a differ-

ence for people in need.

Home Communion Teams

Home Communion Team! January is your month to take communion to the Redeemer Family’s homebound members. Please refill your communion kits if needed. On the first or second Sunday this month



place your kits on the altar to be blessed. Please check in with Pastor Amanda to make sure that all

our information is accurate for 2024. Thank you for your ministry!

Coat Drive Update!

Thank you to all who have helped keep our neighbors warm through the Share the Warmth Coat Drive! So far we’ve collected over 70 coats and over 150 hats, gloves, or scarves. These items to bundle up are given out



through Sharing God’s Love. Redeemer’s Coat Drive will continue through the end of January 2024. If you have any questions please contact Connie Davis or Preston Smith.



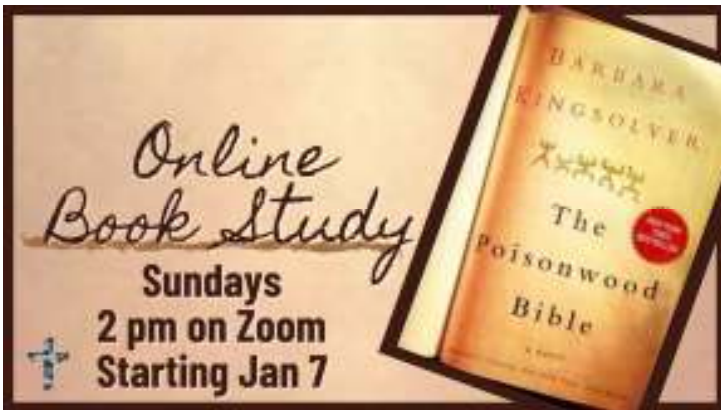
It seems very cliché to say, “It’s a New Year! Let’s consider all the ways this is a fresh start, a new beginning!” Each time we roll around to January those thoughts meander through my mind. While there is nothing wrong with those considerations, it does seem rather limiting.

We have January 1st as our new year because the Roman Emperor edited their calendar in 1st century BCE. There were all sorts of adaptations through the centuries. In the 16th century CE the pope sought the skills of astronomers and mathematicians to configure a calendar that might not need adaptation every hundred years. With a decree that the New Year began on January 1st, some Christian populations of the time settled on this way of tracking the days.

And so here we are. January 2024 and it is, again, a new year. Perhaps that comes with the pressure of setting resolutions, creating new habits, or breaking unhealthy ones. Yet, by the time February appears so many of those good intentions have fallen by the wayside.



The beauty of our life with Christ is that we have the continuous promise of new life. We are made new in our baptismal promises each day. There is always the opportunity for a fresh start, a new beginning, and continuous unconditional love, grace, and mercy. We are not limited by the turning of the calendar. We are not bound by months and days. God’s never-ending love grants us continued renewal, reconciliation, and redemption. Forever.



Prayer List How To's and Reminders

Call the church office or one of the pastors to place family members and friends on our prayer list in the Go and Serve. Please note that a person remains on our prayer list for six weeks and then is removed. If their need is continuing after that point, simply call the office again to put them back on.



Council Elects New Officers for 2024, Approves New Landscaping Plan

To help avoid Christmas conflicts, the Council met a week earlier than usual in December and moved their meeting to immediately following worship. The newly elected members of Council were invited to attend to get a 'running start' on next year's ongoing agenda items and to help elect next year's Council officers.

Reports were received from the Pastors and from the treasurer and approved. In the Pastor's Point, Pastor Gary asked Council members what advice and guidance they would give to those just coming on Council.

In unfinished business, the Council learned that the new sign should be installed in early January. The sign will offer electronic messaging capability to communicate about our ministries to our community.

Throughout the fall, a group of concerned members have been putting together a plan for relandscaping the front of the church building. Council approved up to \$6000 to cover plants, labor, and potential irrigation needs. These monies will come from the Council Discretionary Fund, and the congregation will be given an opportunity to contribute toward this as well.

The Council also designated part of Pastor Gary's and Pastor Amanda's salary as housing allowance as allowed

by the IRS code.

January 14 was chosen as the date for the Council Installation, and the Council scheduled their meetings for 2024 to be the third Sundays at 6:00pm.

New Council officers were elected:

Chair: Bill Newmyer
Vice-Chair: Diane Hunt
Secretary: Donna Nunamaker
Treasurer: Todd Anderson

Finally, the Council determined the allocation of the congregational Christmas gift to our staff.

Following the meeting, the Council and spouses went to Zorbas for a meal together to celebrate the year.



- New sign to be installed in early January
- Landscape Beautification underway
- Housing allowance designated
- Installation of Council set for January 14
- New Council officers elected
- Christmas gift to the staff allocated

By the Numbers November

	YTD 2023	YTD 2022	YTD 2021
Total income	\$ 445,028	\$435,192	\$ 482,669
Total expenses	<u>\$ 470,600</u>	<u>\$524,534</u>	<u>\$ 540,157</u>
Income less expense	<u>\$ (25,572)</u>	<u>\$ (89,342)</u>	<u>\$ (57,488)</u>
Balance on mortgage loan	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,156
Unrestricted cash balance	\$ 152,489	\$ 96,748	\$ 140,264
Attendance	100 on site, 77 online	94 on site, 117 online	9 on site 460 online

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 8:45am - Faith 8:45am - Sunday School 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 2pm - Agape Myanmar	1 10:30am - Staff Meeting	2	3 6pm - Choir Practice 7:30pm - Handbell Choir	4 10am - Thursday Bible 6pm - NAMI support 7pm - Thursday Bible	5 6pm - Agape Myanmar	6 8am - Private Event @
7 8:45am - Faith 8:45am - Sunday School 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 11:15am - Worship & 11:30am - Confirmation	8 10:30am - Staff Meeting 2pm - Ruth Circle @ back	9	10 6pm - Choir Practice 7:30pm - Handbell Choir	11 10am - Thursday Bible 7pm - Thursday Bible	12 6pm - Agape Myanmar	13
14 8:45am - Faith 8:45am - Sunday School 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Council 10am - Worship 2pm - Agape Myanmar	15 10:30am - Staff Meeting	16	17 6pm - Choir Practice 7:30pm - Handbell Choir	18 10am - Thursday Bible 12pm - Leisure Timers @ 6pm - NAMI support 7pm - Thursday Bible	19 6pm - Agape Myanmar	20
21 8:45am - Faith 8:45am - Sunday School 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 2pm - Agape Myanmar	22 10:30am - Staff Meeting 4pm - Finance Committee	23	24 6pm - Choir Practice 7:30pm - Handbell Choir	25 10am - Thursday Bible 6pm - NAMI support 7pm - Thursday Bible	26 6pm - Agape Myanmar	27
28 8:45am - Faith 8:45am - Sunday School 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 2pm - Agape Myanmar 2pm - Book Study @	29 10:30am - Staff Meeting	30	31 6pm - Choir Practice 7:30pm - Handbell Choir	1 10am - Thursday Bible 6pm - NAMI support 7pm - Thursday Bible	2 6pm - Agape Myanmar	3



Memorials Received
September 25th thru December
17th 2023

In Memory of:

Helen Sands

Bonnie Berley
Hugh & Connie Davis
Cornelia Collins
Carolyn Champion
Pat Crosby

Karen E Newmyer *Bill Newmyer's mother*

Kathleen Harrell
Cornelia Collins
Hugh & Connie Davis
Marie Baughman
William & Linda Wells
Charles & Jean Cook
Lynne Flood
Joanne Shrigley
Fredrick & Barbara Parker
James Nunamaker
Brian & Julie Crooks

Kathy Harris

Hugh & Connie Davis

Susan Lorick

Gloria Pleger

John Pritchett *Martie Newmyer's step-father*

Joanne Shrigley

Jim Kiser

Brian & Julie Crooks

Richard Neel *Nan Loadholdt's father*

Kathy Harrell
Mike Parker
Helen Morris
Marie Baughman
Lynn Metzler

Hettie Cross

Tim & Jan Campbell
Annette Shealy
Kenneth & Cathy Fasching
Sheri Jordan
Betty Olsen
Catherine Gleaton
Allene Dubose
Dorothy Eirten
Jean Cook

BJ Mishoe *Jane Long's sister*

Catherine Gleaton
Mike Parker

Evelyn Nunamaker

Catherine Gleaton

Melissa Smith *Julie Crooks sister*

Catherine Gleaton

Bonnie Schneider

Catherine Bost
Mike Parker
Dorothy Eirten

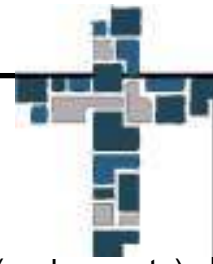
Bill Schneider

Mike Parker

Lee Thomas

Mike Parker





Calendar

Always subject to change!

Sun, January 7, 2024
OK Youth Group, Littles-K (and parents)
11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Sun, January 7, 2024
Elementary Youth Group, 1st-6th
11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Sun, January 7, 2024
Confirmation Class, 7th-11th
11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Thurs, January 11, 2024
MS and HS Youth Group w/ dinner
6th-12th, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Wed, January 17, 2024
MS Youth Group, 6th-8th
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Thurs, January 25, 2024
HS Youth Group, 9th-12th
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Wed, January 31, 2024
MS Youth Group, 6th-8th
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Wed, February 7, 2024
HS Youth Group, 9th-12th
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

February 9-11, 2024
2024 SCLCY Winter Retreat, 6th-12th

Sun, February 11, 2024
MS Superbowl Party, Time TBD
HS Superbowl Party, Time TBD

Sat, March 23, 2024
Community Easter Egg Hunt
Everyone's invited, 10:00 - 11:30 am

Sun, May 19, 2024
Rite of Confirmation during Worship

July 15-21, 2024
ELCA Youth Gathering
Current 8th-12th Grades
New Orleans, LA





Redeemer Lutheran Church

525 St. Andrews Rd
Columbia, SC 29210
(803) 772-5419
www.relu.church

Address Service Requested

Rev. Gary Loadholdt, Senior Pastor
Cell Telephone: 803-528-5693
pastorgary@relu.church
Rev. Amanda Burke, Associate Pastor
aburke@relu.church
Yvonne Krouse, Parish Financial
Administrator
ykrouse@relu.church
Jim Boatwright, Director of Music
jboat@relu.church
Betty Pearce parish Secretary
bpearce@relu.church

Sunday Services

8:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

**2023 Congregation
Council Members**

Term Expires End of 2023
Carroll Lorick
Steve Summer
Julie Crooks

Executive Committee

President Bill Newmyer
Vice President Steve Summer
Treasurer Todd Anderson
Secretary Kai Jørgensen

Term Expires End of 2024
Bill Newmyer
Carol Valovcin
Linda Wells

Term Expires End of 2025
Kai Jørgensen
Fauni Lowe
Mike Parker

Online Giving

Scan this symbol with
your smart phone to be
connected to our online
giving page.

